

## RBS and RUS, USDA

## § 4279.113

reached, the guarantee fee for all additional loans obligated during the remainder of that fiscal year will be 2 percent.

### § 4279.108 Eligible borrowers.

(a) *Type of entity.* A borrower may be a cooperative, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity organized and operated on a profit or nonprofit basis; an Indian tribe on a Federal or State reservation or other Federally recognized tribal group; a public body; or an individual. A borrower must be engaged in or proposing to engage in a business. Business may include manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, providing services, or other activities that will:

- (1) Provide employment;
- (2) Improve the economic or environmental climate;
- (3) Promote the conservation, development, and use of water for aquaculture; or
- (4) Reduce reliance on nonrenewable energy resources by encouraging the development and construction of solar energy systems.

(b) *Citizenship.* Individual borrowers must be citizens of the United States (U.S.) or reside in the U.S. after being legally admitted for permanent residence. Citizens and residents of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands shall be considered U.S. citizens. Corporations or other nonpublic body organization-type borrowers must be at least 51 percent owned by persons who are either citizens of the U.S. or reside in the U.S. after being legally admitted for permanent residence.

(c) *Rural area.* The business financed with a B&I Guaranteed Loan must be located in a rural area. Loans to borrowers with facilities located in both rural and non-rural areas will be limited to the amount necessary to finance the facility located in the eligible rural area. Rural areas are any areas other than:

- (1) A city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and
- (2) The urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Cen-

sus using the latest decennial census of the United States.

(d) *Other credit.* All applications for assistance will be accepted and processed without regard to the availability of credit from any other source.

[61 FR 67633, Dec. 23, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78130, Dec. 23, 2002]

### §§ 4279.109–4279.112 [Reserved]

### § 4279.113 Eligible loan purposes.

Loan purposes must be consistent with the general purpose contained in § 4279.101 of this subpart. They include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Business and industrial acquisitions when the loan will keep the business from closing, prevent the loss of employment opportunities, or provide expanded job opportunities.
- (b) Business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development.
- (c) Purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, or facilities.
- (d) Purchase of equipment, leasehold improvements, machinery, supplies, or inventory.
- (e) Pollution control and abatement.
- (f) Transportation services incidental to industrial development.
- (g) Startup costs and working capital.
- (h) Agricultural production, when not eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) farmer program assistance and when it is part of an integrated business also involved in the processing of agricultural products.

(1) Examples of potentially eligible production include but are not limited to: An apple orchard in conjunction with a food processing plant; poultry buildings linked to a meat processing operation; or sugar beet production coupled with storage and processing. Any agricultural production considered for B&I financing must be owned, operated, and maintained by the business receiving the loan for which a guarantee is provided. Independent agricultural production operations, even if not eligible for FSA farmer programs assistance, are not eligible for the B&I program.

(2) The agricultural-production portion of any loan will not exceed 50 percent of the total loan or \$1 million, whichever is less.

(i) Purchase of membership, stocks, bonds, or debentures necessary to obtain a loan from Farm Credit System institutions and other lenders provided that the purchase is required for all of their borrowers. Purchase of startup cooperative stock for family-sized farms where commodities are produced to be processed by the cooperative.

(j) Aquaculture, including conservation, development, and utilization of water for aquaculture.

(k) Commercial fishing.

(l) Commercial nurseries engaged in the production of ornamental plants and trees and other nursery products such as bulbs, flowers, shrubbery, flower and vegetable seeds, sod, and the growing of plants from seed to the transplant stage.

(m) Forestry, which includes businesses primarily engaged in the operation of timber tracts, tree farms, and forest nurseries and related activities such as reforestation.

(n) The growing of mushrooms or hydroponics.

(o) Interest (including interest on interim financing) during the period before the first principal payment becomes due or when the facility becomes income producing, whichever is earlier.

(p) Feasibility studies.

(q) To refinance outstanding debt when it is determined that the project is viable and refinancing is necessary to improve cash flow and create new or save existing jobs. Existing lender debt may be included provided that, at the time of application, the loan has been current for at least the past 12 months (unless such status is achieved by the lender forgiving the borrower's debt), the lender is providing better rates or terms, and the refinancing is a secondary part (less than 50 percent) of the overall loan.

(r) Takeout of interim financing. Guaranteeing a loan after project completion to pay off a lender's interim loan will not be treated as debt refinancing provided that the lender submits a complete preapplication or application which proposes such interim

financing prior to completing the interim loan. A lender that is considering an interim loan should be advised that the Agency assumes no responsibility or obligation for interim loans advanced prior to the Conditional Commitment being issued.

(s) Fees and charges for professional services and routine lender fees.

(t) Agency guarantee fee.

(u) Tourist and recreation facilities, including hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast establishments, except as prohibited under ineligible purposes.

(v) Educational or training facilities.

(w) Community facility projects which are not listed as an ineligible loan purpose such as convention centers.

(x) Constructing or equipping facilities for lease to private businesses engaged in commercial or industrial operations.

(y) The financing of housing development sites provided that the community demonstrates a need for additional housing to prevent a loss of jobs in the area or to house families moving to the area as a result of new employment opportunities.

(z) Community antenna television services or facilities.

(aa) Provide loan guarantees to assist industries adjusting to terminated Federal agricultural programs or increased foreign competition.

**§ 4279.114 Ineligible purposes.**

(a) Distribution or payment to an individual owner, partner, stockholder, or beneficiary of the borrower or a close relative of such an individual when such individual will retain any portion of the ownership of the borrower.

(b) Projects in excess of \$1 million that would likely result in the transfer of jobs from one area to another and increase direct employment by more than 50 employees.

(c) Projects in excess of \$1 million that would increase direct employment by more than 50 employees, if the project would result in an increase in the production of goods for which there is not sufficient demand, or if the availability of services or facilities is insufficient to meet the needs of the business.